

Application No.: 09/582,216
Amendment Dated: August 22, 2003
Reply to Decision on Appeal: June 24, 2003

REMARKS

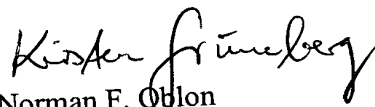
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Per Decision on Appeal dated June 24, 2003, the Board of Appeals reversed the Examiner's rejection of Claims 9-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) over Fickeisen et al. Thus, currently, only Claims 9-14 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) over Kawashima et al in view of Fickeisen et al. Applicants are now providing two sets of Claims in order to obtain allowability of the case: 1) Claim 9 includes the limitations of Claim 15 and 2) new Claim 36 includes the limitations of Claims 21 and 9.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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